News Item Captioned "Barood Dipo SE Goliyan Gayab"

259. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Barood Dipo Se Goliyan Gayab Mamla Dabane ki koshish" appearing in 'Jansatta' dated October 29, 1991;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted an inquiry in this regard and action has been taken against the concerned employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d). Loss of 5762 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition was detected from a railway consignment received at the Ammunition Depot, Bharatpur, on 16th March, 1989. The inspection of the consignment revealed bricks and stones inside some of the boxes in place of the ammunition found deficient. A Court of Inquiry was convened by the Army authorities to investigate the circumstances of the loss. The Inquiry was unable to provide leads for the recovery of the lost ammunition. The Court recommended administrative and disciplinary action against three officers, two Non-Commissioned Officers and two Civilian Storekeepers of the Ammunition Depot, Bharatpur, for negligence in performing their duties. The action against the combatants has been completed. Disciplinary action against the civilian staff is in progress.

Problems of Exporters on withdrawal of CCA and Announcement of New Trade Policy

260. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exporters have been facing problems after the withdrawal of cash compensatory support and the announcement of the new trade policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Exporters have experienced difficulties as a result of withdrawal of the scheme of Cash Compensatory Support w.e.f. 3.7.91. However, other measures taken by Government including adjustment of exchange rate, the re-structuring and expansion of the 'Replenishment Licence Scheme', introduction of a uniform REP rate of 30% of the f.o.b. value and other liberalised trade policies have more than offset the disadvantage of withdrawal of CCS.

Trade Negotiations with Russian Republic

261. THE PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are conducting separate trade negotiations with the Russian Republic of the Soviet Union;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up a Joint Commission to discuss the main issues of Indo-Russian Co-operation;

(c) whether any trade protocol is likely to be signed with the Russian Republic;

(d) whether such negotiations are going on with other Soviet Republics also and